

20 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Emergency Records Storage

1. Mr. Bannerman called on 10 February 1970 and asked me to follow up on a conversation the Deputy Director for Plans had with a Colonel Robert Behr of the National Security Council Staff. Colonel Behr had asked Mr. Karamessines about emergency records the Agency has stored at several sites around the country to support the President in time of national emergency. Colonel Behr apparently wonders whether we store too many, if this is really necessary, and if we couldn't effect some saving by discontinuing the practice.

2. Through the Records Officer Network I learned that there was a program a few years ago to store intelligence documents at several locations but that this had been discontinued about a year ago. I reported this to Colonel Behr and he called me back on 20 February 1970 to say that General Hughes, Military Aide to the President, had told him that our "registry" still distributes documents to these locations. I told Colonel Behr that I thought I had touched all the bases in the Agency that might participate in a program of this kind but I would review again to be sure that I hadn't missed anything. I called John Vance, Director of the Central Reference Service and he confirmed the information I had given to Colonel Behr earlier. When I mentioned that at least some of these were codeword documents, Mr. Vance suggested that I check with Marriner Bertholf in the CIA Operations Center. I talked with Mr. Bertholf and he recognized immediately the subject, saying that this was a program which had begun under the Johnson Administration at the request of the White House and they would be happy to discontinue it at any time. He said that [redacted] in his office was fully acquainted with all the background and the current arrangements and suggested that I chat with him. I agreed to call [redacted] on my next visit to the Headquarters Building.

3. A short time later I had a call from [redacted] saying that he had just had a call from Colonel Behr and was planning to meet with him next Wednesday, 25 February 1970. He said that he saw no need for me to continue to be concerned with this question but offered to tell me anything I might want to know about the program. I said that I would be interested in knowing

STATINTL

STATINTL

STATINTL

about it from the point of view of the emergency planning responsibility which has recently been assigned to this Staff as well as from the point of view of the overall records program of the Agency and suggested that we might chat about it after he has his meeting with Colonel Behr next Wednesday. He agreed to call me and arrange a time sometime toward the end of next week.

Chief, Support Services Staff

STATINTL

DDS/SSS/RHW:mjk (20 Feb 70)

Distribution

Orig - DD/S Subject

~~1 - DD/S Chrono~~

2 - SSS